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75. The method of claim **73**, wherein both strands of said double-stranded RNA each have a 3'-overhang of 2 nucleotides.

76. The method of claim **73**, wherein each strand has a length from 20–22 nucleotides.

77. The method of claim **76**, wherein both strands of said double-stranded RNA each have a 3'-overhang from 1–3 nucleotides.

78. The method of claim **76**, wherein both strands of said double-stranded RNA each have a 3'-overhang of 2 nucleotides. 10

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79. The method of claim **73**, wherein the double-stranded RNA comprises at least one sugar-modified ribonucleotide, wherein the 2'-OH group of said sugar-modified ribonucleotide is replaced by a group selected from H, OR, R, halo, SH, SR, NH₂, NHR, N(R)₂ or CN, wherein R is C₁–C₆ alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl and halo is F, Cl, Br or I.

80. The method of claim **73**, wherein the double stranded RNA comprises at least one backbone-modified ribonucleotide containing a phosphorothioate group.

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